NO. 10/77

DECEMBER 71

ETCETERA & THE COMIC READER

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DC NEWS

Green Lantern/Green Arrow is still going strong. No, 88 is an all-reprint issue (except for an unpublished golden age Green Lantern story with Infantino art. No. 89 has a full length new story -- "And Through Him Save The World!"

Rā's Al Ghoul will return in Batman No. 240 in "Vengance For A Dead Man!" The art is by Irv Novick.

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The Black Canary two-part story planned for Adventure Comics No. 418 and 419 is illustrated by Alex Toth and is beautiful in the black and white. The story is perhaps the best thing that Toth has ever produced. Coloring may ruin it (the comparative use of black and white is the artistic highpoint) but if not these two stories may just win Toth a couple of Shazams. The preceeding paragraph was an opinion.

Flash No. 213, the January, will be an all-reprint issue. The lead story is "Vengance Of The Immortal Villain", a double-Earth story from Flash No.137. The following issue has a new story which pits both Flashes against Vandal Savage in a rematch.

World's Finest Comics No. 210 will have reprints of a Black Pirate story from Sensation Comics No. 2 and a story of The King from World's Best Comics No. 1.

Adventure Comics is on the move: Upcoming reprints include quite a number of stories of the original Phantom Stranger, two more Frazetta Shining Knight stories, the rest of Animal Man stories, and a very special Doctor Mid-Nite story--written and pencilled in 1948 but inked in 1971 by Sal Amendola (who was born in 1948). Upcoming original includes the first Vigilante story (by Wein & Morrow), The Black Canary stories I mentioned above, and second runs of Zatanna, Vig, and The Canary. Plus maybe a new Animal Man story. And a special surprise in No. 422.

MORE DC NEWS APPEARS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES---------->

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Frank Robbins has done a third art job on Batman. This story is slotted for Detective Comics No. 420 and was caused primarily by Bob Brown's European vacation.

Detective Comics gets a new logo with No. 419.

Batgirl undergoes some radical changes beginning with Detective Comics No. 421. Details soon.

Doug Wildey did one story each for The Haunted Tank and The Unknown Soldier. He was to have taken over both strips but he sold a newspaper strip and now has no time for the comics. Sam Glanzman has already done at least one story for The Haunted Tank and he may continue.

Son Of Tomahawk is dead, I don't know with what issue but an educated guess puts it at No. 139. This is primarily because of the time squeeze caused by the two new Burroughs books.

Russ Heath drew and wrote the Sgt. Rock story for Our Army At War No. 244.

Jack Kirby is dropping the Jimmy Olsen book after No. 148. He has sewn up most of the plot threads but Morgan Edge, The Guardian, and The Newsboy Legion remain. The remaining Newsboy Legion reprints will probably go into New Gods after The Manhunter reprints give out. Joe Orlando will take over the book. Reprints will now be Olsen and golden age Plastic Man stories. Jack will probably get a new book but no-one seems to know (or be willing to admit) what it is. A possibility is Challangers Of The Unknown.

Bob Oskner has been suffering from some eye trouble but it has been cleared up and he is now back at work with his abilities unhampered. The only interruption on Supergirl is some ghosted work by Jose Delbo on one issue.

Sinister House Of Secret Love No. 4 will feature a book-length story by Mary DiZuniga (Tony's wife) and Mike Fleisher (the comic book encyclopaediest) with art by Tony DiZuniga. Mike's book will be two volumes and the cost will probably be around $25.

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Jonny Double guest stars in Supergirl's strip in Adventure Comics No. 418.

The first four issues of DC's Tarzan comic will be devoted to the retelling of Edgar Rice Burrough's first book-- Tarzan Of The Apes. The stories are about 26 pages apiece. The balance of the book is John Carter Of Mars by Murphy Anderson in the first issue and Gray Morrow from then on.

Korak will be totally unconnected with Tarzan and is numbered beginning with No. 46. The stories in Korak No. 46 are: "Treasure Vaults Of Opar" by Wein and Thorne, Carson Of Venus in "Mars Or Bust!" by Wein and Kaluta, and David Innes of Pellucidar in "The World Within", by Wein & Weiss.

The Reaper appeared at Rutland two weeks ago in a re-inactment of the Batman story. Robin's pro friends will return in his strip.

Direct Currents is returning under E. Nelson Bridwell.

Some statistics courtesy of Mr. Ed Lolacher: Average sales of all DCs in 1 month for the first 6 months of 1971 was 4,976,403 copies. February was the best month of that period. On a state by state basis NY sells the most DCs in a month (average 479,870) with California coming in close (average 412,561). Wyoming has the worst sales -- an average of 8,230. Oh yes, the newsstand at 909 Third Avenue continues to refuse to carry comic books.

Some readers demanded reprints of the Mystery Analysts Of Gotham City series so they'll be presented in Batman every now and then. Also more Alfred and Mysto tales in Detective.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

For some time I have been saying that Marvel would be bringing out several new books at the beginning of the year. At long last details of two of these have been released:

DOC SAVAGE - The pulp and book hero comes to the comics. The magazine will be bi-monthly and will have its first issue released in March. This (and the other books) is not a try-out book...it bears the title of its feature. The stories will be semi-adaptations, that is following basic plots but not exactly as that would take too many issues. The writer for the series is Roy Thomas, art by Ross Andru. The inker has not been chosen yet (contrary to rumor).

RED WOLF - His single appearance in Marvel Spotlight was apparantly enough to grant him his own bi-monthly book. The first issue will be released in February with art by Syd Shores.

The third book's title I only know through various rumors so I'll wait till I get confirmation. Okay?

The situation with the 1972 Marvel annuals is beginning to resolve itself. They still don't know the price or size but they have decided to release all of their old annuals (Avengers, Capt America, Chamber Of Darkness, Chili, Daredevil, FF, Hulk, Iron Man, Mad About Millie, Marvel Super-Heroes, Millie, My Love, Rawhide Kid, Sgt. Fury, SpiderMan, Sub-Mariner, Thor, Tower Of Shadows, and X-Men) plus a batch of new ones which will definately include a Conan (which I detailled last ish). All the annuals will include a few pages of original material,

I reported last issue that Barry Smith would stop doing Conan with No. 15. His successor is Gil Kane. Meanwhile, Gil's commitments on Captain America will be covered by Sal Buscema while John Romita returns to Spider-Man for the umpteenth time.

Hercules will be appearing in The Avengers irregularly beginning with Barry Smith's first (3-part) story. Capt. Marvel, meantime, will return to comic book heroes heaven (and I don't mean The Negative Zone!).

Gene Colan's three-part Sub-Mariner story with Doctor Doom and Modock (of AIM) is coming up very soon. For those of you who have just joined me recently I'll repeat that parts of it were originally planned for Doom's own strip before it was killed,

The 25¢ Marvel reprint books have been changed to 20¢ books. This is to keep the entire line at one price for unity. This is also a fan's blessing since now the rate of reprinting will be cut in half and stories will have a chance to age.

Marvel reports that they are now trying to stabalize their artistic merry-go-round for good. They want to keep permanant artists (or at least pencillers) on each book to give it an individual feel but since all their super-hero books are monthly they have horrible deadline problems.

Werewolf By Night will remain in Marvel Spotlight at least in number 3 and probably beyond.

I am in a quandry. I don't feel that my reportage on the Marvel Coming Comics is at all good and with my earlier schedule I don't think it is liable to get any better. Do you still want to see this list? I must have opinions on this. Thanks.

As was revealed in an article on comics in The New York Post (Oct. 19, 1971) The Black Panther will henceforth be known as The Black Leopard. This is because the staff wishes to avoid any possible problems. If you've noticed his name hasn't appeared very frequently on covers for the same reason. The Leopard will explain the change of name by saying that he wanted to avoid any connection with any political group since he isn't even an American. Or some such.

COMING COMICS APPEAR ON THE NEXT PAGE ---------->

Coming Comics

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THE FOREVER PEOPLE (7, March). The Forever People have been seperated in time by the Omega effect. Mark Moonrider and Beautiful Dreamer are sent to Ford's Theatre at the close of the Civil War. Vykin The Black demonstrates his super-abilities as a tracker by leading some of Ponce De Leon's men to gold and something else. Big Bear is in Britain at the close of the Roman exodus. Meanwhile (back in our own time) Serifan and the Super-Cycle are busy battling Glorius Godfrey's Justifers. And we also learn the fate of Sonny Sumo. Sandman stars in "The Man Who Couldn't Sleep" as this month's reprint filler. On sale on or about December 2.

OUR ARMY AT WAR (241, February). Rock is involved with the newspapers and a suprise attack of Germans this issue. On sale on or about December 2.

FALLING IN LOVE (129, February). On sale on or about December 2.

BATMAN (239, February). This issue presents a special Christmas story written by Denny O'Neil -- "Silent Night...Deadly Night!" Robin stars in a story called "Soul Pit" which also features his friends from Rutland, the DC staffers. Art on the strip is by Rich Buckler from now on. The reprint is the 1943 Christmas story from Batman number 15 -- "The Lonliest Men In The World". On sale on or about December 2.

ALL STAR WESTERN (10, March). This issue begins the new line-up for this western book. First is a 16 page adventure of Jonah Hex entitled "Welcome To Paradise" written by John Albano and drawn by Tony DiZuniga. Then comes a 10-page leftover story of El Diablo - "The Devil's Secret", written by Bob Kanigher with art by Gray Morrow. The balance of the book is filled with the reprinted conclusion of the origin of Bat Lash. On sale on or about December7.

THE FLASH (212, February). The lead off tale is "The Flash In Cartoon-Land". Our hero gets imprisoned in a TV cartoon show by Abra-Kadabra. The Elongated Man stars in "When Money Grows On Trees". The reprint filler this issue is the modern Flash in "Snare Of The Headline Huntress" from number 126. On sale on or about December 7.

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (100, March). Batman, Robin, Green Lantern, Green Arrow, and The Black Canary star in a Bob Haney/Jim Aparo story -- "Warrior In A Wheelchair". The reprint is Deadman in"Hide And Seek"from Strange Adventures 210 with art by Adams. All fan favorites. On sale on or about December 7.

HOUSE OF SECRETS (96, March). Cover of this issue is by Wrightson. Contents: "World For A Witch" by Jack Oleck and Bill Draut, "Be It Ever So Humble", and "The Monster" by Jack Oleck and Wally Wood. Reprintsin this issue are "The Great Dimension Brainspot" by Alex Toth and "The Indestructable". On sale on or about December 9.

G.I. COMBAT (152, March). The Haunted Tank story this month is a slightly revised reprint of "The Decoy Tank". "The Flying Tigers" by John Severin and "War Comes To Matt Dobbs" by Frank Thorne are the non-series original stories. The USS Stevens story is "Dreams". A special reprint is Hop Harrigan in "Psalm For A K-Ration". On sale on or about December 9.

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (209, February). Superman and Hawkman star in a story entitled "Meet The Tempter And Die!". The Bureau Of Missing Villains debuts with "Tweedldum And Tweedldee" versus Batman from Detective Comics 74. Dec.7.

YOUNG ROMANCE (179, February). On sale on or about December 9.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (96, February). The JLA begins a two-part story with "The Coming Of The Star Breaker". A short (about two page) section of the story takes place on Rann and Adam Strange appears in that portion. The golden age reprints for this issue are the origin of Hourman

(an untitled story from Adventure Comics 48, March 1940) and a Wildcat story -- "The Monkey's Circle" from Sensation Comics 48. On sale on or about December 14.

SINISTER HOUSE OF SECRET LOVE (3, March). "The Bride Of The Falcon" with art by Alex Toth and Frank Giacoia is this issue's 36 page lead. Filling out the book is a 3 page text story by Mike Fleisher. On sale on or about December 14.

WITCHING HOUR (19, March). "A Tomb For The Living", "Stop Beating Heart...You're Killing Me", "What Evil Haunts This House", "Four Threads Of Doom" (reprint), and "The Lamp That Changed People" (reprint). On sale on or about December 14.

YOUNG LOVE (92, February). On sale on or about December 16.

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (161, March). The Unknown Soldier stars in "Long Jump". The interior art is by Doug Wildey (his only job on the Soldier series) with a Kubert cover. The reprint is Enemy Ace in "Slayers and the Slain". On sale on or about December 16.

SUPERMAN (248, February). Luthor creates The Galactic Golem who comes to Earth to fight Superman in "The Man Who Murdered The Earth!" by Len Wein. The World Of Krypton presents "All In The Mind" with story by Marv Wolfman and art by Dave Cockrum. The reprint story is the future Superman in "Muto Versus The Man Of Tomorrow". On sale on or aboutDecember 16.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (199, February). Presenting: Joe Orlando's Great Snow Job! The cover is by Orlando and all the stories involve snow. They are: "Sno' Fun", a 9-pager by Sergio Aragones and Wally Wood; "I Doomed The World", a Kirby reprint; "Snow Beast" by Gray Morrow and Rich Buckler (8pg); "The Whole Ball Of Tin", that story with odd numbered pages by Wein and even numbered pages by Conway or vica versa and art by Bob Oskner; And another reprint-- "The Haunting Wind". On sale on or about December 16.

JIMMY OLSEN (146, February). Mike Royer takes over the inking of Olsen with this issue. The title of the story is "Homo Disasterous" and in it Jimmy turns into a caveman and leads an army of monsters against the Newsboy Legion. The conclusion of the story features the end of the Evil Factory. The filler of The Project stars "The Armored Man". The Newsboy Legion reprint is "Preview Of Peril" as the kids make a movie of conditions in Suicide Slum and capture some gangsters on film. On sale on or about December 21.

FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN (15, March). Reprinted in this issue are the following stories: "World At My Doorstep", "Menace Of The Shrinking Bomb", "The Invisable Dinosaur", "Interplanetary Merry Go Round", and "Captain Baboon's Space War". On sale on or about December 21.

THE NEW GODS (7, March). This is it. In response to reader demand Jack Kirby tells all. The origins of Orion, Mister Miracle, and "THE PACT" are told in this issue. Plus Manhunter in "Legend Of The Silent Bayer", a wilderness mystery. On sale on or about December 21.

DC SUPER SPECTACULAR (DC-9, February).
OUR ARMY AT WAR (242,
Sgt. Rock stars in an early, pre-series story about the days when he had just joined the Army -- "The Rock". Johnny Cloud goes mad in a story entitled - "Broken Ace". Capt. Storm in "Death Of A P.T. Boat". Gunner & Sarge in "A Tank For Sarge". The Haunted Tank in "The Wounded Won't Wait" with Sgt Rock guest starring. "Imperius, Neptunis, Regis", a story about the dunking of sailors at the date line. "The Camera Patrol" by Russ Heath. "Call For A Tank" by Mort Drucker. Plus section dividers by Joe Kubert. On sale on or about December 23.

GREEN LANTERN/GREEN ARROW (88, March). This issue is all reprints or unpublished golden age stuff. Contents: Green Lantern in "The Summons From Space", the story in which GL first went into outer space on a mission for The Guardians. Originally published in Showcase 23. Green Lantern also appears in "The Origin Of Green Lantern's Oath" from GL 10. The unpublished treat of the issue is an original GL story by Infantino -- "The

DC COMING COMICS continued

Menace Of The Marching Toys". On sale on or about December 23.

THE UNEXPECTED (132, February). "Edge Of Madness" by Jim Aparo, "Diary Of A Dead Man", "Death Watch", "The Absolutely Obsolete Man" (a reprint), "A Will To Kill", "Expermint 1000" (a reprint), and "The Sorcerer's Handcuffs" (still another reprint). On sale on or about December 23.

HEART THROBS (138, February). On sale on or about December 23.

LOIS LANE (119, February). This issue presents the second story about the two Morgan Edges. The real one goes off to hide amongst the Outsiders (with appearances by Voodo and Iron Mask) while the clone plots to get him. "Inside The Outsiders Is The Title". The Thorn takes on "The Silent Snipers" in the first part of a two-part story which explains the origin of her costume and gizmos. This month's reprint is Lady Danger investigating "The Dead Man's Chest" with art by Bob Oskner. On sale on or about December 28.

GIRLS' LOVE STORIES (166, Febraary). On sale on or about December 28.

SUPERBOY (182, February). The lead story is "The Forging Of Young Batman". Remember when Mort Weisinger did a story like that? Also in this issue is "Album Of Unsung Heroes" and "Amazing Tots Of Smallville" (a reprint). On sale on or about December 28.

ADVENTURE COMICS (415, February). Supergirl stars in "The Space Pirates" with script by John Albano, art by Win Mortimer and Bob Oskner. Reprinted is the third A-Man story:"A-Man--The Hero With Animal Powers" with Infantino art. A Supergirl filler is "Like A Death's Head In The Sky" by Len Wein, art by Oskner. And the piece de resistance...Zatanna in "Kill Or Be Killed". On sale on or about December 28.

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DETECTIVE COMICS (419, February). Frank Robbins & Frank Robbins present Batman in "Forecast For Tonight... Murder!". Batgirl is in Mexico for "Target For Mañana". The reprints in this issue are Captain Compass in "X Marks The Mystery" and a non-series story -- "The Man Who Robbed 1,000 Minds". On sale December 30.

ACTION COMICS (409, February). "Who Is Clark Kent's Killer And Why Is He Doing These Terrible Things To Me?" is the title of Cary Bates' lead story for this issue. Filling out the issue is "The Baffaling Block Of Metropolis" (another new story by Bates) and the first half of a Teen Titans reprint -- "Secret Of The Olympic Heroes".

Marvel Coming Comics appears on page 10.

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LATE

The final set-up for the Superboy 100-Pger is done. Here it is: Superboy in "The Superdog That Replaced Krypto" and "The Rip Van Winkle Of Smallville". The first story is the second story about Swifty, the second deals with the awakening of a man who has been in a coma for 20 years. The Legion is represented by "The Eight Impossible Missions". The Teen Titans will be featured in "The Astounding Seperated Man" from B&B 60. The Star Spangled Kid & Stripesy in "Jigsaw Puzzle Murder". Kid Eternity in "The Kid Eternity Hoax". Plus the origin of Little Boy Blue from Sensation 1.

The Superman giant will feature all flying heroes and will include: an early Superman, a Black Condor, a Hawkman, a Doctor Fate and others.

The negatives of several early Superman stories (circa 47) have been found. Some of them will become Silver Anniversary Stories. They include the first story when Superman broke the time barrier, a story in which he demonstrated a power he has since lost (the power to alter his face) and "His Lordship, Clark Kent".

APOLOGIA:I had to cut the Goethe ballot to get it in last month and Don Thompson feels I didn't make clear that books dated 1971 are eligable, not published in 71. Sorry.

CONVENTION REPORT

PAUL HUGLI

Instead of a regular Reviews column this month I decided to begin with something special...the first WITCH-CRAFT & SORCERY CON at the LA Hilton from October 22 to 25.

The con was to start at 6:00 PM and, as usual, I arrived early and went into the dealers' room to see what was going on. At or around 8 the place started to hop and I met Caz & Mrs. Caz (of ERB-dom). Their table was next to the one I shared with Randall Larsen's (Fandom Unlimited), which was also my own. Then I wandered over to Bud Plant's to buy some fanzines.

The dealer's room closed at 11 and so we went to watch the movies because we didn't have a room and wouldn't get one till Saturday. We were hoping that the movies would last all night but they didn't and at 1 we were forced into the lobby. A half hour later we were thrown out of the hotel because we didn't have a room. So we walked the streets of LA for 5 hours.

At 6:00 Saturd-y morning we went back into the hotel and got a room, so we were all set. At 8 the dealers' room opened and I went in and saw Bruce Hamilton's goodies like Capt. America 1, Big All American, Buck Rogers Pop Up Book, Bulletman 1, and many more.

Because of bad programming I missed Don Reed (head of the Dracula Society) talking about "Witches, Werewolves, & Vampires Do Exist" and Ackerman's talk on "Film-monsters I Have Known". I also missed the artist and author's luncheon because of the $6.00 fee (the guest was Robert Bloch).

Finally at 3:00 came the Comic Book Panel with Infantino, Kirby, and Royer. It lasted about an hour with Infantino dominating. Some topics were Detective Chimp, the new ERB books, and various newsy things you've no doubt read about in Etcetera.

At 5:00 there was a witch from San Francisco who talked on her own folk. As 7:30 rolled around the costume ball arrived. The host was Larry Vincent who is the MC of Fright Night here in Southern California (or did I get that backwards?). Edythe Eyde sang two hymns to Satan. The costumes were many and included the topless godess Arsis (complete with garter snake), warrior, landing party of Star Trek, wolfwoman, witches, Ivan the terrible, a good looking mutant girl of earth, Ally Oop, Solomon Grundy, Uwanta from 1,000,000 BC (the one played by Raquel Welch), Vampi, Mr. & Mrs. Death, slave girl, et al. The MC received the first annual Slimy Wall Award. A special award went to a Mr. Hyde character, 3rd place was Solomon Grundy, 2nd place was Uwanta, and first place was the wolfwoman. Then Bjo Trimble and Miss Hamilton (Bruce's daughter) performed the Bat And The Bitten... originated by Karen Anderson at the World SF Con this year.

Next came a con first -- a seance conducted in front of 200 people. In the central circle were Seymour (Larry Vincent's stage name), Don Reed, Forry Ackerman, Kirk Ayln, the Medium and a few others. They hoped to raise the ghost of Bela Lugosi. After 15 minutes of silence the Medium yelled out "I cry with tears of joy!" and supposedly raised someone named Marie Alaude of Italy, a beautiful but heavy-set woman.

The dealers' room was closed and Mark Radcliffe and I roamed the hotel. Finally we came upon Bob Juanillo (a great fan artist). We talked till 4:30 then I watched some movies till the dealers'room opened again at 8.

At 11:00 Kirk Alyn gave a very interesting talk on his role as the Superman of the serials. At 12 Bill Stout gave an art/slide show which contained works by Pyle, Rockwell, Stout, Frazetta, Krenkel, Cole, and Clay. At 4 E. Hoffman Price talked of his early days with Weird Tales and his various fellow writers.

The auction came at 5:30, followed by the $9 banquet (with a Bradbury talk), and a Black Mass which wasn't up to par since there wasn't a virgin sacrifice (no volunteers, I guess).

At 10:30 the next morning there was a witch dance at at 12:15 some NASA

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

the Wandering Fan

TONY ISABELLA

What has gone before: The evil Baron Baadmann, having forced the lovely Melody Luv to marry him to save her father's ranch, has had his wedding night interrupted to search for the creature whose foul murders have terrorized the town he owns and rules!

Returning to the bridal suite, he finds his bride at the mercy of a vampire! He rushes forward and drives a stake through the vampire's heart. The monster dissolves in the light of the bright full moon.

As Melody leans forward to thank her husband, a change begins to pass over her. The Baron is horrified.

"You see, dear husband, you killed the vampire, but you wed a werewolf!"

...AND EVERYONE GETS RUN OVER BY A TRUCK!

I've never been particularly enthralled by horror comics--for one thing I've always felt that term was incorrect as these books encompass a variety of story types--but I could never pinpoint why this was so. I recall enjoying my first taste of the EC school of horror, but I rapidly tired of the genre. Again, I couldn't point to any of the reasons for my boredom.

Until recently.

I buy nearly everything on the stands. I like to know what's happening in all of DC's and Marvel's books and most of the titles of the other companies. Quite often, I am surprised by good tales in usually bad titles. Just as often and sometimes more so, I see nothing that was worth the time I spent reading it.

What I'm getting at is that it was not out of character for me to buy and read The Witching Hour 18, even though that title seldom features a good story. I suffered through the first two tales in the issue, both new stories, and was beginning to wish the comic was only 32 pages. My interest perked up during the two reprinted stories and dropped back down to the depths with the last story in the issue, another original tale.

Why were the reprints--approximately ten years old, I guessed from the clothing and car styles--so much better than new stories done sometime within the past year? A second look at this issue's contents was definitely in order.

"The Worm That Turned to Terror" is a new story about Barney, a nebbish in every sense of the word. He is led astray by his older brother, Keith. Socko finish! Keith is the figment of said nebbish's imagination, the brother he always wanted and, as an only child, never had.

The second original story, "The Diggers" details the post-war life of a French soldier who deserted his comrades, who faced certaindeath in a doomed trench. Haunted by sounds of digging, this anti-hero is "ironically" killed when he steps on a mine near said trench. Wrap up by snickering witch. End of tale.

Ed Herron's "The Face Behind The Mask," the first of the pair of reprints, is about an extortion fraud. Zo Ann Kerns, a Broadway actress, is blackmailed into helping her agent trick a wealthy health nut into buying a youth serum. She does this by pretending to be 300 years old. She can't go through with it, though, exposing the fraud in the last reel. Not a great story, but a readable one. We got a number of clues to the fraud, so the "shock ending" is a fair one. Also, we get a heroic figure, a woman torn between right and personal security, in the lead role. A most welcome change from Barney and the French deserter.

"I Was a Prisoner of the Supernatural," the second reprint of the issue, is also written by Ed Herron. It tells of a movie "bad guy," Jasper Murdock, who literally beats the devil. Condemned to villain looks by his evil looks and tempted by Mephistopheles with fame, fortune, and power, Jasper must choose between his own goodness or Satan's evil. When the actor playing the symbolic role of "Good" to Jasper's "Mephistopheles" is caught in an accident, Jasper risks his life to save the man. It appears that Jasper's eyes had been lost as a result, though. Punishment for disobeying the Lord Of Evil? No. Jasper regains his sight and the public, reading of his heroic deed, demands ro see him in a heroic role. It's a story that is, at times, chilling, but the ending is most satisfying. It doesn't last,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Coming Comics

AMAZING ADVENTURES (11, March). The Beast's solo series debuts with this issue. He takes over the entire book. Staff for the strip is: Conway, Sutton, and Shores.

THE AVENGERS (97, March). John Buscema contributes the art for this concluding chapter to the Kree series. Starring in this issue: The Kree, the Skrulls, Capt. Marvel, and, if they can fit in--The Avengers. The story is entitled "Godhood's End".

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON (147, March). I believe this issue will be illustrated by Sal Buscema and will continue Cap's battle with Hydra.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (14, March). Looking back on my last two issues it seems that I have been misgaging the arrival of this book. However I'm quite sure that Michael Moorcock has plotted this issue. Elric guest stars. Elric, for those of you who don't know is one of Moorcock's heroes, a prince (albino) in self-exile from his country. Part one of two parts.

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE (16, March). This issue should feature the first segment of a new series, Warrior Of Mars, running 10 pages with art by Gil Kane and Bill Everett.

DAREDEVIL (85, March). With the Mr. Kline/Assasin story threads finally concluded Daredevil and The Black Widow embark on a new life.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR (120, March). I am sorry to report that I have no info on this issue but I think The Black Leopard will appear.

FEAR (7, May). All reprint.

THE HULK (149, March). The Inheritor strikes while the Hulk lies imprisoned within Project:Greenskin.

IRON MAN (45, March). Talk about loose threads. Mr. Kline has been killed off in Daredevil but his Night Phantom android is still battling Iron Man.

KID COLT, OUTLAW (158, March).

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (3, May). A second installment of Werewolf By Night is on tap for this issue.

MARVEL TALES (34, May). Spider-Man in "In The Clutches Of The Kingpin", reprinted from Spidey No. 51.

MY LOVE (16, March).

SGT. FURY (96, March). New material should appear in this issue.

SPIDER-MAN (106, March). I believe this issue will continue last issue's "The Spider Slayer"

SUB-MARINER (47, March). I think this issue will begin a several part story with Dr. Doom.

THOR (197, March). The young gods battle Kartag while Odin and his troop of old gods tackle Mangog.

WHERE MONSTERS DWELL (14, March).

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next ish:

Next issue will be 16-pages (this ish was scheduled to be but the Post Office ruled that I couldn't sneak by a 16 pager with an insert so I cut out an ad and a letters page. Contents will include:

THE WANDERING FAN BY TONY ISABELLA... A special article dealing with the increasing use of the anti-hero as the star in mystery/horror stories.

CONVENTION REPORT: CREATION CON 1971.. An instant report on fandom's newest major con. Advance sales of tickets and tables have been great.

FANDOM FORUM: "SEX IN THE OVERGROUND COMICS" BY CHARLES SHRECK. The Black Widow, Ka-Zar, and their friends prance through this piece.

RADAR IN THE VOID BY TOM GREENIONES. I never know what Tom'll write about next but I'm sure it'll be worth reading.

CONVENTION REPRORT: PHIL SEULING, KING OF THE CONS, PRESENTS SECOND SUNDAY. The first monthly comicon, prsented by the master of the art. A report in depth.

+ NEWS OF DC AND MARVEL, COMING COMICS, REVIEWS, FANZINE REVIEWS, AND MORE.

OUT ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF DECEMBER.

CONVENTION REPORT: THE FIRST WITCHCRAFT & SORCERY CON cont

films were shown. Finally came the last event of the con, the science-fiction panel with Ackerman, Price, Ross Rocklynne, Jim Harman, Daugherty, and Eichmer (expert on Atlantis). They talked about movies, Pal's Atlantis, radio heroes, Lovecraft. Then came a slide show of pulp covers and interiors.

Other activities that I forgot to mention was an art show by Wilson, Austin, G. Barr, and Julliano; plus other things that were minor.

Guests included Leigh Brackett, Ed Hamilton, Larry Niven, and AE Van Vogt.

PAUL HUGLI will be doing the Reviews column for Etcetera regularly beginning with the next issue. A substitute Reviews section may be found on page 13 (I hope).

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COPIES OF ETCETERA 7 (MY FAMOUS MISSING ISSUE) ARE NOW AVAILABLE! THE COST IS A MERE 10¢ TO COMPLETE YOUR RUNS OF ETC.

WHILE OBVIOUSLY THE NEWS AIN'T NEW THERE ARE SOME NICE BACK FEATURES:
The Conclusion Of Hero History's feature on Super-Hero Teams
Radar In The Void on the Green Lantern/Green Arrow drug book
Commentary by John Hall against Joe Brancatelli's position on relevant comic books
DCon 71 - Beyond Our Wildest Nightmares - the staff's eye view of a convention's disasters and sucesses

ALSO AVAILABLE AS BACK ISSUES:

Etcetera 1 - 6 pages, a collector's item of the future (???)...25¢
Etcetera 2 - up to 8 pages...20¢
Etcetera 3 - 12 pages...20¢
Etcetera 4 - 12 pages including an interview with Jim Warren...20¢
Etcetera 5 - 12 pages...20¢
Etcetera 6 - 14 pages including NY and Dcon coverage + articles by Isabella and Brancatelli...25¢
Etcetera 7 - as above, 10¢
Etcetera 8 - SOLD OUT
Etcetera 9 - SOLD OUT

WANDERING FAN: ...AND EVERYONE GETS HIT BY A TRUCK continued

unfortuneately.

"When Satan Comes A-Creeping" features a reprobate who evicts mothers with babes in arms into storms. Lord Harold gains mastery of a young witch, by threatening her familar, a black cat. She's forced to make him rich and powerful and even marries him. Harold kills the cat to remove her powers. Surprise! Only the cat could keep the witch beautiful. She turns into a horrible hag.

There's little variety in horror comics these days. Sure, we get stories of the supernatural, or suspense, or mystery, and even s-f. But most of these stories have the same two elements, the anti-hero and the "shock ending".

You can't identify with an anti-hero. Unless you're a really sick person. What's wrong with Zoe Ann Kerns or Jasper Murdock a couple of closer-to-reality characters. And,if having heroes must necessitate a happy ending--and it doesn't--what is so wrong about that? We could use a few victories.

And the shock endings. I'm a fan of them when they're done well, when the reader is given the opportunity to spot them before the end of the story. Not pulled out of a hat to tie everything up quickly. Michael O'Donoghue successfully satirized that little gambit in his "How To Write Good" for National Lampoon (Mar) and I tip my typrewriter to Mr. O'Donoghue for the title of this piece, the ultimate shock ending/wrap-up.

Horror comic writing has degenerated into formula writing and not good formula writing at that. What we need are good writers--at Warren, T. Casey Brennan and Donald McGregor come to mind--that can break from these overused elements. Writers that can make use of logical progresson to tell stories that don't rely on a "wrap-up/shock-ending" to carry them. It means turning our backs on the rich EC horror tradition, but it also means better stories.

Oh...in case you're wondering about Baron Baadmann. After he got over his inital shock of learning Melody was a werewolf, that rascal revealed himself to be an abominable snowman. They ran out into the street where they were all run over by a truck!

More terror tales next issue,fear freaks!

REVIEWS:

JACK KIRBY:REVISITED

Way back in Etc. 1 there was a review of Kirby's new books by Paul Kupperberg. Now, at the close of the first year of the trilogy (with the exception of Mr. Miracle 6 starring Stan Lee & Roy Thomas which will be covered next month), I'd like to take a second look.

All the elements of good comic book writing and standard comic book writing are there. The only reason that we sometimes miss them is that he seems to be unable to compress a story (with the exception of the Mr. Miracle satires) into just one issue. The theme is action first with plot playing a slow, but not poor second. He has taken a year to build up to the point where he is ready to reveal the origins of his protagonists, yet, as far back as the second issue of New Gods he was dropping very broad hints.

Slowly the books have undergone a change. Jimmy Olsen is now a play on several levels, with different actors playing on each stage. New Gods now is devoted to several of the title characters: Metron in his search for the Source, Orion and Lightray on Earth, and Highfather, overseeing all. Not to mention the pervading presence of Darksied, the star of all four books. Forever People has lost, at least temporarily, that rejected Kree sentry,the Infinity Man and the individual personalities of the heroes are slowly rising out of the cliche level.

Kirby is writing on a different time scale than other comic authors and that is all you need to know to appreciate him. Just sit back, relax, and get used to the fact that the story will end...sometime far in the future, on the far side of the Boom Tube. /Levitz

THE RETURN OF THE GOLDEN AGE

When DC announced the change to the 25¢/48-pages format, I nearly gagged. Didn't they realize how much it was going to cost fans each month for the new comics? But then, after a few months, we saw that the new comics were not all'new'.

Suddenly there was a deluge of Golden Age reprints and unpublished material. DC Special reprinted five prime Golden Age Plastic Man stories by Jack Cole including his origin and that of Woozy Winks. Then another Plas story appeared in DC Super Spectacular 8.

Also in DC Super Spectaculars were a Joe Kubert illustrated Sargon The Sorcerer from 1946, an unpublished old Atom story, The Spectre in a 1940 Bernard Baily masterpiece, an unpublished Wildcat story by John Chester Kozlak, Kid Eternity in a beautiful story by Mac Raboy, and a 1942 Air Wave classic. A very good buy for 50¢ for the 100 pages.

Superman and Batman have had some of these Golden Age goodies too. The earliest Batman we've seen is from Detective 37. Another one went back to 1945. Superman's gone back 25 years to bring back an early Luthor story.

Green Lantern has been represented by a 1947 Toth story entitled "The Icicle Goes South".

While we're used to seeing oldish stories of the original Flash it was nice to see another one in a recent Flash.

Wonder Woman is a weird paradox. Her current Sekowsky stories have been the worst material in her book in a while but some Hanerfeld-chosen reprints in Sekowsky's last book saved the day. Her debut and origin story from All-Star Comics 8 was included as well as an unpublished story, both with art by H.G. Peter.

Two Robotman stories from Detective 138 and 178 respectively were "The Inside Story Of Robotman" and "The Robot Ghost". The latter was the shortest super-hero story ever published (according to Mark Hanerfeld's extensive reserch).

Early Ghost Patrol by Infantino, Shining Knight by Frazetta, The Tarantula Tarantuala...a true revival of the golden age greats.

From Superman 28 there was a four page Lois Lane short. Along with that story there were reprints of Lady Danger and Dr. Pat in Lois Lane.

Of course you're all aware of the Simon-Kirby stuff in the Kirby books.

The best material is the JSA hero reprints in JLA. The first stories were the premiere appearances of Sandman and Starman. The Sandman, with art by Larry Dean was from Adventure 40 (1939). The Sandman, art by Jack Burnley, from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Jāch Spake

jeffery H. Wasserman

The second feature of Fantastic Four 118 re-introduces us to the first sub-plot of the FF series. After crawling out of the wreckage of their moon ship, Reed, Sue, Johnny and Ben found they could become monstrosities and human again at will. That is, all of them except Ben. He found himself trapped within that grotesque mound of orange peelings from which he received only short reprieves. During the first year, Ben resented Sue's affections for Reed and constantly tried to win her love. It is this sub-plot that is used in this month's six-page Thing filler.

Here, Ben finds himself teleported to a parallel world by Lockjaw. In this world Reed Richards is the Thing, a lonely hermit who seeks solitude in a mechanicalized playland, and Ben Grimm is Mr. Fantastic, the husband of Sue Storm. It is obvious that Richards/Thing sacrificed his love for Sue so that she and Grimm/Mr. Fantastic could marry. It is interesting to note that Alicia Masters ended Ben's jelousy of Reed and that in the parallel world her non-appearance led to Ben marrying Sue.

What better is there to review than "The Night Of The Reaper" from Batman 237? And when better than today, Halloween. Within the pages of this magazine one can watch O'Neil, Adams, and Giordano weave a story around Tom Fagan's annual Halloween party. The minor plot is that of ex-Nazis who seek to murder a confederate that deserted with their funds before the war's end. The major plot involves a Jewish doctor who dons a cloak and skeleton suit to avenge his family that was murdered at the Nazi deserter's concentration camp. In his efforts he kills a trick-or-treater dressed as Batman and scares the wits out of Al Weiss, Berni Wrightson, and Gerry Conway.

The artwork is reall the highpoint of the story. Neal and Dick have, besides drawing another story fantastically, rendered the above named comic pros perfectly. There are also some cameos of O'neil and Fagan as well as a beautiful portrait of Wrightson. For the drawings of these people alone, the magazine is worth far more than the 25¢ price tag.

The highlight of this month must be the November National Lampoon in which there is the story, Dragula. Set-up in the style of a comic book, but in black and white and on slick paper, this parody on the vampire is excellently handled by Frank Frazetta, Tony Hendra, and Neal Adams. Frazetta's color "cover" for this strip shows Dragula, Queen of Darkness, cowering from a nude girl of fantastic proportions. Queen, cowering? Did I forget to say that Dragula carries not only the curse of the vampire but also the curse of the homosexual. Each victim assumes the nature of the opposite sex and then promptly searches for others to join its ranks.

Even though Dragula is a spoof, the artwork of both Frazetta and Adams remains at their respective best.

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11-1 III

Jāch Spake is a commentary column of various contents that will be appearing on a fairly regular bi-monthly basis here from now on.

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REVIEWS continued

Adventure Comics No.61 (1941). The second set of stories were the origins of Dr. Mid-Nite and Dt. Fate. They're from All-American No. 25 (1941) and More Fun No. 67 (1941) respectively.

To date, these gave been the only major reprints but for the future DC has planned a 36 page Wonder Woman story, the first Black Canary/Johnny Thunder story, a lot of Superman stories, a Wildcat, and unpublished stories of Green Lantern, Dr. Mid-Nite, and The Flash. For the rest of the details read the news pages and hold on to your hats! /P. Kupperberg

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The print run of this issue is 1000! Out of that approximately 800 copies are going out to paid subscribers.

ETC.

T.C.R. FINANCIAL TRIVIA: Old TCR subs of record have been altered into ETC subs by a pro-rating system. TCR cost 15¢ by sub in the good old days, ETC costs 33¢ therefore Mark and I chose to honor old TCR subs at the rate of one issue of ETC for every 25¢ you had sent Mark. If anyone is sufficently dissatisfied that they want a refund I'll give one. New subs still are taken only at the non-compromise price of 3/$1. All cash subs have been entered and all checks dated before June 1, 1971 that have cleared your bank. If you sent Mark a check that hasn't cleared your bank and was dated before June 1, 1971 consider it destroyed.

To introduce TCR readers to ETC here's a short rundown on my features: News, Coming Comics, Reviews by Paul Hugli, Convention Reports (Creation and Second Sunday coverage next issue), Radar In The Void by Tom Greeniones, The Wandering Fan by Tony Isabella (two more pieces on the horror books and the code are coming up in the next few issues), Jach Spake by Jeff Wasserman, Duffy's Tavern by Duffy Vohland, Fandom Forum (a revolving commentary column), occaisonal interviews, a sometime lettercol, and some scattered Fanzine Reviews.

As Etcetera readers remember I used to publish about the 20th of the month. However, due to Phil Seuling's new Second Sunday cons I've moved that up to the second monday of the month. Oh, and TCR-ers, I have an excellent track record about deadlines.

Good grief! I think I have another 16 pager coming up next month. It should include Charlie Shreck on Sex In The Overground Comics, Radar In The Void, Wandering Fan, and a ton of con coverage.

I'd like to thank herein (cause I've been remiss lately) the various pros who donate their time to me in the cause of letting you know the news.

I'll try and print some circulation data next issue. As of today I'm not sure how large my print run is going to be or even how many pages this issue will contain (probably as many as I can sneak past the Post Office).

Till next month, Peace!

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